

March 9, 1978

LB 192

CLERK: 9 ayes, 13 nays to cease debate Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Motion fails. Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President, members of the body. We have discussed 192 on several different occasions. Senator George is aware of the fact that I had a motion to indefinitely postpone, but I did not call the question without debate. I'm glad that it didn't prevail. My reasons are very specific for asking for a definite postponement. As I said in one other debate that we had on this floor the Attorney General's opinions are abundant as it pertains to state aid, as it faces the state today. When he said the Legislature shall not tamper with the state aid bill that would indeed confuse the people of this state, who are presently co-equal with this Legislature as it pertains to LB 33. I feel that Senator Burrows' bill is a distinct departure, when we talk about financing state aid it is indeed a drastic change as it pertains to state aid and I would not want 33 contaminated further with the philosophy of a new way to finance schools of this state. In addition, Senator Burrows, I don't know how many of you have gone to his briefings, I have attended one, we have an equitable way of financing schools presently. 78% of the money coming from property taxes. Property is disparagingly appraised across this state which makes the equity of financing schools of this state almost an abomination. Senator Burrows' proposal to you is that it would come from income and corporate tax, with no reliability on property tax whatever way. To me all we are doing is we are changing the problem. We are taking the problem of property tax and transferring it totally to income and corporate tax. This is just as unequitable as it is today...when people who own property are primarily supporting schools. I don't believe that is fair either. This state must realize that if we are going to bring about reform and how we finance schools, then we have to use all indicators of wealth with some degree of equity. Certainly LB 192 does not talk much about equity because it would exclude property almost in totality as a source of wealth for the purpose of financing schools. That is the reason that I placed the indefinite postponement on this bill. I believe that if we are going to talk about state aid that it has to come at another session which is going to be 1979 providing that 33 fails by a vote of the people. This is not the appropriate time to discuss it. The only item for discussion on this floor, this session on state aid will be whether or not we as a body will consider to appropriate 6.1 million dollars which is a surplus of 55 million presently to be provided to the schools of this state. That is the issue. The issue should not be 192. I know that Senator Burrows has spent considerable time on this subject. But, I believe right now that it is premature and if he wants to bring it back next year, then that is the place to properly treat it. I ask for your serious consideration of indefinitely postponing LB 192.

PRESIDENT: Senator Simon.

SENATOR SIMON: Does Senator Burrows want to talk?

PRESIDENT: I thought that your light was on first.

SENATOR SIMON: If you don't mind, I'll let Senator Burrows go first. Usually the person who.....

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